of coffee produced in the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Non-Traditional & Non-Conventional Areas was 209100 MTs, 60470 MTs, 19400 MTs, 2530 MTs & 500 MTs respectively.

(c) to (e) In the recent months, the international coffee prices have fallen due to surplus supply due to over production. Since nearly 80% of the coffee produced in India is exported, the industry is mainly dependent on the international Coffee prices. Hence, the Indian coffee growers are not getting the same remunerative prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. However, the domestic prices of both the varieties of coffee are still higher than the international prices.

Although, in the free market era the prices of the commodities are determined by the market forces, the Govt. of India through Coffee Board monitors the price situation of the commodities including coffee and if situation warrants, takes suitable ameliorative steps so as to safeguard the interests of the coffee growers.

Meeting of WTO Committee on Agreement on Agriculture

1462. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the WTO Committee on Agreement on Agriculture is scheduled to meet shortly to discuss proposals of each country on the subject;

(b) the main issues as far as India is concerned are market access, domestic support, export subsidies and food security; and

(c) if so, what are the details of India's proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The next special session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture is scheduled in February 2001 wherein the various proposals submitted by the member countries are likely to come up for discussion.

(b) India proposes to seek enhanced market access opportunities for its farmers by demanding a substantial reduction in the tariff and elimination of export subsidies and substantial reduction in the domestic support by the developed countries. Further, to safeguard the food and livelihood security, it is proposed to seek sufficient flexibility in domestic policies.

(c) India has cosponsored its first proposal on Market Access, along with 11 other developing countries in the special session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture held in September, 2000. In this paper, trade distortions prevalent in international markets and the consequent hindrance to the exports from the developing countries have been highlighted. It has been proposed that developed countries should effect substantial reductions in their tariffs and eliminate tariff peaks and tariff escalations. It has also been demanded that the administration of tariff rate quotas (TRQs) should be made transparent and equitable for all trading partners with regular enhancement of TRQs to improve market access for all developing countries. Other proposals include elimination of all forms of trade distorting export subsidies and substantial reductions in the domestic support provided by developed countries; prohibition of dumping; and effecting suitable modifications in the provisions of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which inhibit the ability of developing countries to export agricultural products.

India amongest Special 301 Priority Watch-List

1463. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minster of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has announced that under this year's review of the so-called Special 301 provision of the Trade Act 1947 concerning Intellectual Property Rights, the US places India amongst its 16 trading partners on the Special 301 Priority Watch-List; and

(b) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Under the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended the USTR identifies countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to US persons that rely upon intellectual property protection. Although the US trade law recognizes only the category of "Priority Foreign Country", the USTR has been following the practice of placing countries on three different categories called the 'Priority Foreign Country', 'Priority Watch List', and 'Watch List', depending on the perception of inadequacy of protection given to US intellectual property rights. The US has placed India on the 'Prioroty Watch List' under this year's review